JSlephas alone survives. This genus also includes many extinct forms, both American and European, as well as Asiatic and African. The entirely extinct genera are *Stegodon* and *Mastodon.* The group is clearly one dwindling towards extermination. From the Middle Miocene downwards these great " pachyderms " have existed; and from the Miocene up to Pleistocene times they were almost world-wide in range and numerous in species.

The genus *Eleplias* comprises usually large, but occasionally (the pygmy Elephant of Malta) quite small forms. The external features of the genus differ slightly in different species,, and will therefore be described in relation to those species which we shall notice here. The vertebral formula is C 7, D 19-20, L 3-5, Sa 4-5, Ca 24-30, or even more.

The bodies of the vertebrae are remarkable for their shortness and for the very flattened articular surfaces.

The skull is large and massive. Its large and heavy character is, as has been stated in the definition of the sub-order, due to the

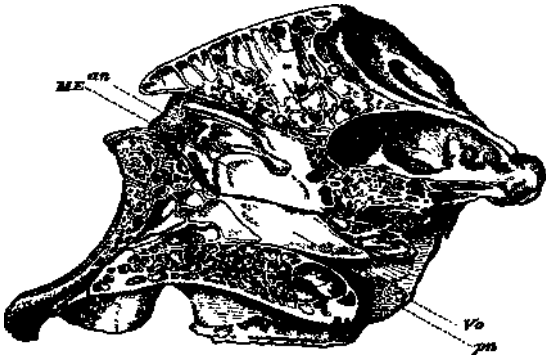

FIG. 116.—A section of the cranium of a full-grown African Elephant, taken to the left of the middle line, and including the vomer (Fo) and the mesethmoid *(JfJS)* ; *an,* anterior, and jw, posterior narial aperture. x ^. (From Flower's *Osteology.)*

immense development of air cavities in the diploe; the diameter of the wall of the skull is actually greater than that of the cranial cavity. These cavities are not obvious in the young animal. They are most conspicuous in the roofing bones of the skull, but are seen elsewhere, and thicken the basis cranii,